

EXPOSING THE “PURE HEART” ERROR OF CTMI'S “APOSTLE” MIKI HARDY

HI EVERYONE! THIS IS NOT A QUICK READ! RATHER A STICK OF BILTONG TO CHEW ON FOR A WHILE. BUT WE BELIEVE ABSOLUTELY VITAL IN UNDERSTANDING CTMI.

The Apostle Peter says: *Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* (1 Peter 1:13)

So grab your bible and a cup of your favourite beverage and prepare your mind for action!

Audrey Hardy on TBN (4 October '09) articulated the core CTMI —Pure Heart doctrine - making the outrageous statement – “***when our hearts are pure – why do we need the blood of Christ?***”

Concerned Parents Forum members rushed to crucial passages of scripture to “*rebuke those who contradict the trustworthy word and sound doctrine*” (Titus 1:9). Jaredbeck, a former CTMI member in San Diego, subsequently posted a telling thread – “*There is no gospel of the cross*”.

It is one of the important criteria of unsafe religious groups that there will be some significant departure from orthodox Christian truth coated with what seems like "normal" Christianity. We believe we are looking here at the heart of such a departure in CTMI.

This is extremely serious because it goes to the kernel of the most important question anyone can ask themselves. “***How can I be in right standing with God? How can a Holy and Just God accept and be pleased with me?***”

In his blog on 9 January 2010 in a piece entitled “*The grace of God and our Heart*”, Miki Hardy repeats Audrey’s answer to the above vital question:

“A pure heart is the key for this grace to be manifested and is the basis for God’s provision at all times. The Lord will not act on our behalf unless we have a clean and pure heart. I want to remind you that the New Covenant is a covenant of the heart, and God looks at the state of the heart before He does anything for His children. A typical example is found in Matthew 5:21-24. We see here that the Lord looks at even the smallest of attitudes that will prevent us from receiving the rewards and blessings He has for us. In other words, we cannot serve the Lord and receive the grace we need unless we have a pure heart.”

Before getting to the heart of the issue - works vs grace – just a quick comment on Miki’s choice of Matthew 5:21-24 to prove his case! This passage says that if we know others have anything against us we cannot know the blessing of worship unless we first go to them and reconcile. Or at least attempt to reconcile. Wow!! This is probably the passage we have quoted the most in our appeals to CTMI to respond to the things we have against them!! Our allegations and concerns were made clear in direct communication with them for a year. And now, sadly, these grievances are public. Yet the only response has been either silence, refusal to meet or to shoot the messenger with ad hominem attacks like “*enemies of the cross*”, “*pagans*”, “*twisted hearts*”, “*group bent on evil*”, “*diabolical*” etc

With startling irony, Miki cannot see that according to his teaching, his own heart is not pure and therefore cannot receive God’s “*rewards and blessings*”.

Miki is in effect saying we earn the approval of God ("*basis for God's provision*") by somehow achieving the status of having a pure heart. He does not define "pure heart" or say here how this is achieved or how anyone can know whether their heart is "pure" or not. However, we all know from their often repeated "gospel of the cross" that this involves a daily dying to self by "identifying with the cross and suffering of Christ in our hearts" This is shown mainly by conforming to the controlling direction of anointed leaders. Such ones are "well!"

This is the unique CTMI gospel that all our children embrace – as revealed here by Liezl Steenkamp in her blog (Jan 18)

"It is the grace of God! We are called to walk with pure hearts, and what a privilege to be hearing a message that shows us how too."

And Levi Page (Jan 13)

"There are so many ways to justify one's action on both sides but it all comes down to a state of heart, and that's what the Lord looks at."

And Rachel Gillon

"No longer did I feel I needed to do something to receive Gods love and righteousness. I discovered there is a work that he wants to do in me. No longer doing good things to cover up for my own lacks and to make me feel better - now I see that to really serve the Lord is to give Him my life unconditionally and allow Him to mold me, change me and use me for whatever He wants! I believe this is the only way we can serve the Lord."

Rachel says she was locked into "doing things" to be accepted but now rejoices in "giving her life unconditionally" for that blessing!?!? Surely that's still doing things!?

CTMI has locked in their members with this key!! For God to act on your behalf or do anything for you and before you can do anything acceptable for him your heart must be pure. You must be unconditionally and sacrificially given! And by the way - because of apostolic anointing revelation - only our message can teach you how to have a pure heart.

The startling irony and contradiction is that this covenant of the heart is actually a covenant of works! The believer must achieve some state of heart to secure God's blessing! And Miki and Liezl keep calling it "grace"! Grace means unmerited favour! They turn this on its head and hold up the pure heart as achieved merit to secure the favour of God!

This is another gospel!!

Biblical Examples of Blessing for those who Confess Impure Hearts

If we read Isaiah 6:1-6 we do NOT see this great prophet of God parading his pure heart before God. Exactly the opposite! After an awesome view of God in His holiness, his humble and contrite confession of an impure heart and dependence on God's mercy alone is what secures God's favour! In case some are saying – that's old testament law that is nailed to the cross – in Luke 5:8-10 Simon Peter secures the blessing of becoming a fisher of men immediately after falling on his knees and asking Jesus to depart from him because he is a sinful man! Hardly

parading a "pure heart" in appeal for merit. Our Lord Himself told a parable of two men who went to pray in Luke 18:10-14. Who went away with the favour and blessing of God? The one who bowed down and said —have mercy on me a sinner.

The True Heart of the Matter – Justification by Faith

The Apostle Paul teaches the theology behind the above humble responses in Phil 3:9-10

“and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— [10] that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,”

It is surely gloriously clear that the only basis for being found in him is a righteousness (pure heart) which is not Paul's! It is from God! It is Christ's pure heart on our behalf that counts! And it's not achieved in Paul's heart – it's by faith!

CTMI love to emphasise vs 10 as the basis for blessing – our identification with his sufferings and dying daily. However, this is merely a response and is clearly only possible on the basis of vs 9.

May we add that while this response in vs 10 is not the basis, it is nevertheless very necessary to show vs 9 has really happened!!

Romans 3:22-24

“the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,”

This righteousness is NOT from us in our hearts – it is from God by his grace alone by faith alone.

Romans 4:6

“just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works”

This righteousness is not in our hearts forged by works – it is a legal and accounting transaction in the books of God. We are —counted as if we are righteous. God looks at Christ's righteousness not ours and accepts us on that basis!!

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

All blessing and favour from God ultimately flows from this —justification by faith. Certainly not our achieved "pure hearts".

Romans 8:1

"There is now therefore no condemnation to them that are in Christ"

If we are forever wondering whether our hearts are pure enough or not, we will often be under condemnation. This is what Martin Luther agonised over before the truth of "the just shall live by faith" shone in his soul! When our acceptance is based on Christ's perfect finished work we can know glorious assurance, peace, joy and freedom!

Wayne Grudem in his —Systematic Theology (widely acknowledged among evangelicals) reflects the above scriptures when he says the following about the Covenants of Grace and Works"

"For Christians, Christ has fulfilled the provisions of the covenant of works successfully once and for all, and we gain the benefits of it not by actual obedience on our part, but by trusting in the merits of Christ's work. In fact, for Christians today to think of themselves as obligated to try to earn God's favour by obedience would be to cut themselves off from the hope of salvation.. The reason this covenant is called a covenant of grace is that it is entirely based on God's unmerited favour towards those whom he redeems." (Pg 518)

Miki, given his departure from the Catholic Church and responses on radio to Catholic priests, would perhaps be shocked to discover that his "pure heart" version of justification before God is actually official Roman Catholic doctrine.

Hear Grudem again:

"The Roman Catholic understanding of justification is very different from this. They understand justification as something that changes us and makes us holy within. According to the teachings of the Council of Trent, justification is sanctifying and renewing of the inner man' This view may be said to understand justification as based not on imputed' (legal reckoning) righteousness but on infused' righteousness – that is righteousness that changes us internally and in terms of our actual moral character. The result of this teaching is that people cannot be sure if they are in a state of grace' where they experience God's complete acceptance and favour. Catholic theologian Luwig Ott says The reason for the uncertainty of the state of grace lies in this that without a special revelation nobody can with certainty of faith know whether or not he has fulfilled all the conditions which are necessary for the achieving of justification" (Pg 728) (CPG - In other words do I have a —pure heart or not?)

So CTMI's "pure heart" theology and Roman Catholic "state of grace" theology seem identical!

Insights from Geoff Paxton – Present Truth Magazine Volume 15 Article 2

We include relevant extracts on this vital issue from this evangelical author. The article is entitled "The Evangelical's Substitute" and is a commentary on ways in which some churches are substituting for the clear teaching on justification by faith, outlined above.

1. "A Changed Life as Foundation"

For example, one of the most frequently encountered forms is "the changed life criterion." How difficult it is to suggest something may not be Biblical if it has changed the person's life! Have you ever tried to get anyone to rethink his view when he keeps telling you how great a change it

has brought into his life? How much more he loves Jesus because of the experience! This is the pragmatic approach: "It works!" It works; therefore it is Biblical. (CPG See all the CTMI blogs!!!)

2. The Believer's Crucifixion (CPG - The Heart of CTMI "Pure Heart" Teaching)

A common notion in much evangelical preaching is that the believer becomes acceptable to God, receives the Holy Spirit or gains deliverance from sin by the crucifixion of the self. Auto-crucifixion becomes salvific — i.e., it makes a man acceptable with God. (CPG the take up your cross identify with the suffering of the cross in your heart CTMI focus) We have no hesitation in unequivocally asserting that the Bible knows absolutely nothing of this nonsense — except (and this is an important qualification) insofar as it frequently denies it. In Scripture there is only one crucifixion for the total acceptance of the believer with God forever. Such a crucifixion (of the holy Son of God) is a crisis crucifixion (for it bore the judgment of God). It is not the crucifixion of self by the self, but it is the crucifixion of Christ by the sinful self of man. In fact, it was the crucifixion for self — for me!

The popular notion of the crucifixion of self (by the self!) makes a half crucifixion out of the total crucifixion of Christ. This is the best that such nonsense can present. At worst it totally denies the crucifixion of Christ. This crucifixion of the self detracts from the unique crucifixion of Jesus. There are not two crucifixions that make us acceptable with God. Concerning the notion of auto-crucifixion, note the following: a. The crucifixion of the believer that the Bible recognizes is that crucifixion which has taken place in the crucifixion of Jesus. The crucifixion of the believer is not in addition to or alongside of the one unique crucifixion of Jesus. So Paul could say, "I have been crucified with Christ. . ." Gal. 2:20. Further, Paul could take the crucifixion of the Colossians for granted and urge them to do likewise (Col. 2:20 3:4). All believers have, by the grace of God, been involved in the crucifixion of the holy Son of God. It is this crisis experience, and this alone, that God acknowledges. It is this experience of crucifixion, and no other, that puts the believer into the ideal relationship with God. b. Romans 6:1-11 clearly teaches our eyes should be affixed to the unrepeatable experience of Jesus and not to any experience we may or may not have. All our actions take on the nature of obedient response to the definitive saving history of Jesus. **Note well: All the activity of the believer is responsive to (not creative of) the unique pleasing of God which came about by the saving activity of Jesus Christ.** (CPG – Wow this point seems in direct response to Miki's blog above!!) c. When the call of Scripture comes to take up the cross and follow Jesus, it is (1) a call to repentance and (2) a call, therefore, to take up the cross of Jesus. It is my cross insofar as I, by faith through the grace of God, make the cross of Jesus my own. The believer is not called to take up another cross. Also, this taking up the cross of Jesus and making it my own is a constant, day-to-day thing. We need to daily take up the cross. d. **The constant taking up the cross of Jesus by the believer should not be preached as a "thing in itself." It should always be preached in the context of the gospel.** In fact, this is true of all the exhortations of the Bible. To isolate them and make them a "thing in itself" is to distort the unique perspective of justification and sanctification in Scripture. (CPG – An absolutely critical insight!!! CTMI have clearly made "taking up your cross daily" a "thing in itself" instead of a response to God's grace!)

3. Our Secret

There is a book in circulation among evangelicals which announces that a small, elite group of believers have "found the secret." The secret, apparently, is a crisis experience by which they have entered into a fuller relationship with God. In the name of the Saviour and in interests of the truth of Scripture, we make the following points about such believers: (1) Their crisis

experience made them not one whit more acceptable to God than they were when they reached out their beggarly hand to grasp the saving arm of the Saviour. Whatever their experience was, it was not that which made them acceptable with God. (2) If they were not found more acceptable with God because of their crisis experience, they ought not to be thought of as more acceptable by other believers who have had no —crisis experience. (CPG – neither should it lead the small elite group to look down on and forever criticise the “church at large”) (3) Whatever the “secret” was that such men found, if it was not the secret hidden from the foundation of the earth and now made clear in the gospel of the saving history of Jesus, then it is not a Biblical secret. And if it is not a Biblical secret, then we should not look for it!

CONCLUSION

We have hopefully shown that CTMI seriously distorts the true gospel of scripture by repeatedly teaching a "pure heart" theology that requires an intense focus on radical "self-crucifixion". This places perpetual "pressure to perform" on members. They must display this "pure heart" to be seen and accepted as a "son or daughter in the house" Like most distortions of Christianity, this involves a disordered mixing of the great truths of justification and sanctification.

It turns out this is common in "dangerous religious groups". Dr Paul Martin, founder of the well known Wellspring Recovery Centre in the USA, in a journal article entitled "Dispelling the Myths" says:

“It is essential to help those coming from aberrational Christian groups to rediscover the gospel. It is my experience that all cultic or aberrant groups distort the gospel. This includes those that call themselves orthodox Christian as well. What is particularly disturbing is that many of these groups could, with a clear conscience, subscribe to the most orthodox, fundamental, and evangelical statement of faith. But practically they are living a subtle but deadly religion of works righteousness, at least in regard to sanctification, if not justification. For this reason it is very liberating for former members to study the letter to the Galatians in a step-by-step fashion and contrast St. Paul's message with their group's practices.” Through the gospel, meaning to life is restored and self-esteem is regained. Ex-cultists can see, as Joseph did, that "God meant it for good" (Gen. 50:20). It has also been Harold Buss'II's experience that a clear understanding of the gospel is the single most important issue in a cultist's recovery and future immunity from further cultic involvement.”[33]

We hope the above has helped towards this clear understanding of the awesome biblical gospel.